

Minutes of the meeting of Mary Tavy Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th February 2020, 7pm, in the Reading Rooms, Mary Tavy

Present: Cllr. Williams (Chairman); Cllr. Page (Vice Chairman); Cllr. Dunn; Cllr. Hill; Borough Cllr. Pearce; Cllr. Prosser; Cllr. Reid; Cllr. Wright; Katherine Anness (Clerk).

1) Open Session for Public Discussion (15 minutes):

Borough Cllr. Pearce expressed disappointment that councillors resolved not to pay the invoice from Devon County Council for the hazard warning signs installed near Mary Tavy and Brentor Primary School during the last meeting. Borough Cllr. Pearce advised the Parish Council that legal repercussions may result from following this course of action.

Cllr. Williams replied that the decision was that the Parish Council would not pay for the road signs that have been installed as they are not the road signs that were originally requested. Councillors may reconsider their decision, regarding payment of the invoice, in the event of a change of hazard warning signage as per the original request submitted by the previous Parish Council.

Cllr. Williams provided reassurance that an open channel of communication between the Parish Council and Devon Highways is being maintained on this issue. The Parish Council have sent a letter to the Highways Management Department at County Hall to inform them of our decision and the reasons for it and we have, in return, had written confirmation that our letter has been received. The invoice has been put on hold pending further investigation by the local Neighbourhood Highways team.

2) Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Butland and Cllr. Fife Cook. Apologies accepted.

3) Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Dunn item 7 (not pecuniary).

4) Confirmation of Minutes: of the last meeting (circulated) held on Tuesday 14th January 2020.

It was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true record. Proposed by Cllr. Page, seconded by Cllr. Reid. All in favour by a show of hands. Cllr. Williams signed the minutes.

5) Speeding Working Group: to receive an update from the Working Group. To agree any actions and authorise any necessary expenditure.

Cllr. Reid provided the Council with a verbal update on our recent speed monitoring trial with a Traffic Speed Logger and progress on the set-up of a community Speed Watch team.

- Speed Monitoring Trial: A hired SpeedSpy Traffic Speed Logger was installed in four different positions on the 30-mph section of the A386 for a period of two to three weeks at the end of January - beginning of February. The Traffic Speed Logger has now been returned to the hire company and we are awaiting the final results.
- Speed Watch Update: Application forms have been sent, by local Police, to the individuals that consented for their names to be put on the list to become Speed Watch volunteers. Some application forms have been returned and some individuals have further attended appointments with local Police to authorise their application. It is anticipated that the training session for Speed Watch volunteers will take place in March.

Action

- To discuss the final results from our speed monitoring trial at the next Parish Council meeting and agree further action(s).

6) Verges Working Group: to receive an update from the Working Group, agree any actions and approve any new recommendations for maintenance. To decide whether to place a further advertisement for the grass cutting and maintenance contract available for tender within the next edition of the local newspaper.

A full discussion took place. The discussion included and referred to:

- No bids have yet been received for the grass cutting and maintenance contract that is currently out to tender. The closing date for the receipt of sealed bids is Saturday 29th February. The decisions and agreed actions outlined below were arrived at during discussion of this issue.
- The Devon Federation of the Women's Institute (WI) are celebrating their hundredth birthday this year and the WI groups are encouraged to undertake an environmentally based project to celebrate. The Tor and Tavy WI and Mary Tavy WI groups are currently planning on working together and one project of interest relates to the re-wilding of roadside verges in the local area.
- Correspondence received this month from Devon County Council with regards to drainage maintenance responsibilities. Councillors discussed liability for the maintenance and clearance of roadside ditches within the parish.

Standing Orders suspended for Borough Cllr. Pearce to answer a question posed to him related to the historical arrangements for roadside ditch maintenance within the parish.

Standing Orders resumed.

Decisions

- It was **resolved** to post a statement on both the Brentor, Lydford and Mary Tavy Group and the Tavistock Group Facebook hubs to remind those interested in submitting a bid for the grass cutting and maintenance contract of the upcoming deadline. Proposed by Cllr. Reid, seconded by Cllr. Page. All in favour by a show of hands.
- It was **resolved** to hold a further meeting of the Verges Working Group, a week before the deadline, to discuss the necessity for further action(s) dependent on the number of sealed bids received at the time. Proposed by Cllr. Page, seconded by Cllr. Wright. All in favour by a show of hands.

Actions

- Cllr. Reid and Cllr. Wright to draft and agree upon a statement for the Facebook hub groups.
- Cllr. Reid to upload the agreed statement to the Brentor, Lydford and Mary Tavy Facebook hub.
- Cllr. Wright to upload the agreed statement to the Tavistock Facebook hub.
- Cllr. Williams to write directly to local gardening contractors to inform that our grass cutting and maintenance contract is currently out to tender.
- Cllr. Williams to place an advertisement on the noticeboard to inform that our grass cutting and maintenance contract is currently out to tender.

7) **Planning:** Dartmoor National Park have asked for comments from the Parish Council.

DNPA Reference	Planning Application
0001/20	<p>Erection of single storey building to act as granny annex at Midlands Barn, Horndon</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> SUPPORT</p>
0006/20	<p>Erection of lambing shed and hay store at Lower Creason Farm, Horndon</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> SUPPORT</p>
0008/20	<p>Use of building as a dwelling at The Bothy, Rowes Farm, Horndon</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> SUPPORT</p>
0020/20	<p>Conversion of redundant outbuildings to two-bed holiday unit as planning approval 0488/19 but allowing partial demolition and replacement of the South East elevation at Hillside House, Brentor Road</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> SUPPORT</p>
0037/20	<p>Erection of outbuilding for use as a summer house at Cloudstreet, Brentor Road</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> SUPPORT</p>
0047/20	<p>Installation of a 15m replica telegraph pole supporting three antennas, colour coded dish and equipment cabin at Wheal Jewell Reservoir, Horndon</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> SUPPORT. Six in favour, one abstention.</p> <p>The following points were made during the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed work, once complete, has the potential to transform future mobile network coverage in some of our most remote local moorland areas. • It will enhance the emergency services communications network coverage within remote local moorland areas. • The telegraph pole will stick out and a third of it will be obstructing views of the local landscape. • It is disappointing that the telegraph pole has to be separate from the Screening House rather than part of the existing structure.

8) Finance:

The following payments were approved during the Council Meeting:

Clerk Salary February	£492.96
Clerk Expenses (includes use of home as office)	£38.76
Tindle Newspapers Devon Ltd (advertisement for tender of the grass cutting and maintenance contract, 16 th January 2020 edition)	£28.44
Devon Association of Local Councils training course: Preparing for Audit on 3 rd March 2020 (Clerk)	£42.00
J. Jeffery: Lengthsman work carried out from the Elephant's Nest up to Horndon; Horndon village down to Horndon Clam and up to Zoar Down; the pipe opposite the dog bin on Bal Lane and the Axna Road.	£379.20
Gardiner's World	£210.00

Income

Cemetery- Tavistock Funeralcare	£211.00
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Financial reports circulated with the agenda. Council **resolved** to accept the accounts. Proposed by Cllr. Page, seconded by Cllr. Reid. All in favour by a show of hands.

9. Grant Application on behalf of Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Tavistock): Application circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Tavistock) have requested a grant of £3000 for their RESCUE-50 Appeal which aims to raise a total of £50,000 in 2020 for a new Rescue Control vehicle. To agree any actions and associated expenditure.

Decision

To defer discussion and decision until the next financial year (April 2020 - April 2021). Clerk to inform Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Tavistock).

10) Annual Parish Meeting 2020: To commence discussion of councillor's ideas for the event. To agree any actions and authorise any expenditure.

A full discussion took place. The following ideas were put offered:

- To hold two separate meetings rather than one, i.e. hold April's monthly meeting of the Parish Council on a separate evening to the Annual Parish Meeting.
- To hold the Annual Parish Meeting later than 6.30pm to enhance attendance.
- To produce and deliver a leaflet to households to advertise the Annual Parish Meeting.
- It was suggested that the agenda for the meeting adhere to the following format: introductions, Chairman's address, finance, two short talks from invitees external to the Parish Council followed by an informal session involving refreshments and the opportunity to ask questions and mingle.
- To invite the following to the Annual Parish Meeting to provide a short talk (ten minutes): a representative from Devon Highways and a representative from West Devon Borough Council to present on the new enhanced kerbside recycling service. Seonaid Greenwood (local PCSO) as a third option in the absence of one of the above.

- To invite other people of interest to our residents and introduce them at the beginning of the Annual Parish Meeting (to allow residents to approach after the formal part of the meeting is complete should they wish).

Decisions

It was **resolved** to set the following date for the Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 16th April 2020 at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall.

It was **resolved** to set the following date for April's monthly meeting of the Parish Council: Tuesday 14th April at 7pm in the Reading Rooms.

Proposed by Cllr. Page, seconded by Cllr. Williams. All in favour by a show of hands.

Actions

- Cllr. Prosser to draft a leaflet for residents to advertise the Annual Parish Meeting and circulate it to all councillors by email.
- Clerk to research the most appropriate representatives from Devon Highways and West Devon Borough Council (Waste and Recycling Department) and invite them to attend and provide a short presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- Clerk to send an invitation to the following: our local Ranger from Dartmoor National Park Authority; local organisations that have received grants from the Parish Council this financial year: a representative from Mary Tavy Victory Memorial Recreation Ground Trust involved in the set-up of the new children's play park, the Musical Director of Harmony Choir and Tavistock Citizens Advice.

11) Cemetery Committee/Working Group: To discuss potential appointment of a cemetery committee or working group to concentrate on the issue of a lack of burial plots available within the Parish Council's cemetery.

A full discussion took place regarding the previous Parish Council's aim to address this issue and the extensive investigations that were carried out related to potential purchase of adjacent land that could allow for an extension of the existing cemetery. The previous Parish Council produced three comprehensive cemetery extension reports in 2016 and sought legal advice. Land was not purchased at the time for various specific reasons.

Standing orders suspended for Borough Cllr. Pearce to provide an insight into past investigations carried out by the previous Parish Council.

Standing orders resumed.

Councillors agreed to set up a Cemetery Working Group to re-examine the issue of a lack of available burial plots within the cemetery which is ongoing. Cllr. Hill and Cllr. Williams volunteered to become members of the Cemetery Working Group. There is scope to recruit further members: both councillors and non-councillors/members of the public.

Action

- Cllr. Reid to scan the original paper copy of the cemetery extension reports produced by the previous Parish Council in 2016 and circulate it to all councillors by email.

12) Councillors Reports and external Meetings attended (for information only):

- i) Emergency Warden and Snow Warden:** No report.
- ii) Southern Parishes Link Committee Representative:** No report.
- iii) DNPA Representative:** No report.
- iv) Mary Tavy Victory Memorial Recreation Ground Trust Representative (MTVMRGT):** MTVMRGT have now raised all the money required for the new children’s play area including a sum for a path to the toilets within the Coronation Hall to provide future users of the new play area access to the facilities. MTVMRGT are currently making arrangements for VE Day celebrations. The crowdfunding project for a new projector is proving successful.
- v) Cemetery Report:** No report.

13) Clerk’s Report: The following require inclusion on the agenda for the next Council meeting: internal audit; accessibility statement for the website; defibrillator: monthly report submission and visual check; internal change of burial clerk/cemetery contact.

14) Items for Future Agenda: The following will constitute agenda items for discussion and decision at the next Council meeting: outstanding invoice from Devon County Council for the hazard warning signs installed near Mary Tavy and Brentor Primary School (requested by Cllr. Prosser); Dartmoor National Park Management Plan Consultation (requested by Cllr. Wright); condition of the permissive path from the Recreation Ground to the Mary Tavy Inn (requested by Cllr. Reid).

15) Items for Information: The date of the next Council meeting: Tuesday 10th March 2020.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.41pm

Signed..... Date.....